

This recognition is long overdue. Last week, in Hauppauge, New York, at the annual ceremony which commemorates the beginning of the Korean War, Korean Americans and representatives of the Korean government spent 90 minutes thanking Americans for what they sacrificed for their people and their nation. While some Americans may not realize the significance of their accomplishments, the people of Korea do. So have the people of Berlin and the people of the Federal Republic of Germany who thanked America for saving Berlin just a few months ago at a ceremony at Ronald Reagan Airport.

As the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall approaches, and as we begin a series of tenth anniversaries of critical events which led to the final end of the Cold War, it is appropriate that we act now to thank those generations of Americans who gave the world peace. And there is an urgency! Many who served during the last days of World War II have already departed for a better place. We need to move on this quickly to ensure that this nation extends its thanks to as many patriots as possible.

A TRIBUTE TO KIRK THOMAS BUECHNER; FOR HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Kirk Thomas Buechner, Boy Scout, from San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of his advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

In addition the rank of Eagle Scout is only bestowed once a Boy Scout satisfies duties including, the completion of 21 merit badges, performing a service project of significant value to the community, and additional requirements listed in the Scout Handbook.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Eagle Scout Kirk Thomas Buechner will guide and inspire his peers, toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Kirk on this respected accomplishment.

EDEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to commend the Eden United Church of Christ in Edwardsville, IL for their unparalleled contributions to the community. The church has joined hands with Habitat For Humanity to form the Vacation Bible school who's mission is to build a better foundation for life by learning the lessons of the Bible. Children join together to build toolboxes, picnic

tables and other odds and ends to grace homes built by Habitat For Humanity.

Cory Luttrell, a 7-year-old participant in the school, is having a great time. "It gives people a place to put their tools after they build houses. They worked hard, so we should be helping them," Cory said. There are currently 1,700 Habitat For Humanity affiliates in 62 countries and they are responsible for the construction of more than 100,000 homes. The cooperation of Eden United Church of Christ and Habitat For Humanity is a great example of how organizations can come together so that they can better serve the community.

REPEALING THE ANTI-CALIFORNIA PROVISION OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, currently, California is arbitrarily limited to no more than 10% of the funds under the Clean Air Act's section 105 grant program. (Nationally, that program will provide \$115 million in state and local clean air grants in 1999.) Yet our state represents more than 12% of the nation's population and pays more than 12% of total federal taxes. What's more, our state is home to the only "extreme" clean air designation in the country—the Los Angeles basin.

Today, I am introducing legislation to end this inequity, under which California generally, and Los Angeles specifically, are significantly underfunded by Clean Air Act air pollution planning formulas. The bill eliminates the 10% maximum level of funding for any one state under the section 105 state and local clean air grant program.

The bill does not authorize or compel more funds to be appropriated under the section 105 grant program. It simply states that California should be able to receive its fair share of those funds that Congress does choose to appropriate.

This legislation is supported by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, who recently came to Washington to speak to members of our state's delegation about the need to end this arbitrary statutory limit, which directly injures California.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KELLY PHIPPS

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, the United States Institute of Peace held its twelfth annual National Peace Essay Contest and I am proud to announce that Ms. Kelly Phipps of my district won first place in Ohio. Ms. Phipps is a student at Jackson High School in Massillon, Ohio. Students are asked to write about the different measures that can be taken to prevent international conflicts.

The Peace Essay Contest is designed to encourage young people to think about international conflict management and resolution.

Ms. Phipps wrote her essay on "Economics in Preventive Diplomacy: The Treaty of Versailles vs. The Marshall Plan."

I include a copy of her essay for my colleagues to review:

ECONOMICS IN PREVENTATIVE DIPLOMACY: THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES VS. THE MARSHALL PLAN

When desire for revenge clouds rational policy making, the results are disastrous. A comparison between the Treaty of Versailles and the Marshall Plan demonstrates effects of vengeance in foreign affairs and the need for nurturing economic policies to prevent conflict. After World War I, the harsh measures imposed upon Germany through the Treaty of Versailles not only failed to prevent future conflicts, but fueled the rise of the Third Reich. Under similar circumstances, the Marshall Plan created after World War II successfully rebuilt Western Europe, deterring threats on two fronts and proving that measures to strengthen economies are crucial to prevent hostility.

After an armistice was reached on November 11, 1918, Lloyd George of Great Britain, Georges Clemenceau of France, and Woodrow Wilson of the United States led the Peace Conference in Paris ending World War I (A.A.I.R. 3, Goodspeed 269). Because of Germany's 1914 declarations of war on Russia and France, fear of further German aggression guided the conference (A.A.I.R. 3, Goodspeed 270). To prevent another widespread conflict, the conference produced the punitive Treaty of Versailles and created the League of Nations for enforcement.

The treaty signed on June 28, 1919, devastated the German Empire. Articles 118 and 119 stripped Germany of all overseas possessions, turning them over to the Allied and Associated Powers (A.A.I.R. 84). Based on declarations of war on France and Russia in 1914, Articles 231 and 232 held Germany independently accountable for the war and forced compensation for all damages in foreign territories (A.A.I.R. 123). The Treaty required Germany to pay 20 billion gold marks as an initial installment (Goodspeed 273). The total cost of reparations was 132 billion marks, to be paid over 35 years (Watt 503).

"It does much to intensify and nothing to heal the old and ugly dissensions between political nationalism and social democracy," warned the editors of the *New Republic*, claiming the Treaty was "bound to provoke the ultimate explosion of irreconcilable warfare ('Peace at Any Price' 184). As the value of the mark plummeted under austere economic penalties, desperation and resentment spread among the German people, setting the stage for the conflict between ultranationalists and democratic Western Europe. By 1923, the mark devalued to 5 million for every American dollar (Goodspeed 278-79). Devastating inflation consumed the saving of the German workers, creating disillusionment in Weimar Germany and a base of support for Nazism within the middle class (Pennock and Smith 562). A few months before the Treaty of Versailles was adopted, nationalistic parties accounted for a mere 15% of the German vote. By 1924, inflation had skyrocketed and nearly 39% of Germans were voting Nationalist (Pennock and Smith 567).

In 1924, the United States funded the Dawes Plan, offering limited loans to Germany (Goodspeed 286). The Dawes Plan both reduced the harshness of the Treaty of Versailles and eased Germany's nationalistic tendencies. After 1924, support for these parties decreased from 39% to 30%, illustrating the ties between economics and militant nationalism (Pennock and Smith 567). However, the withdrawal of German nationalism was